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SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH A WAITING LIST

A Sunday school with a waiting list is something new among church institutions. There is such a one in New York, however. It is not conducted in connection with a church but with Union Theological Seminary, in whose building at Broadway and 120th street it meets at 9:30 every Sunday morning, absolutely perfect model of a Sunday school, but those in charge of it say that it is more like an experiment station in religious instruction than an absolutely perfect model of a Sunday school. They call it the Union School of Religion and would prefer to have other people do the same, but "model Sunday school" is probably the name that will stick.

To the extent at least that the introduction of the latest methods of Sunday school teaching can make this one a model it certainly deserves the name. It is very different from the old fashioned kind. In the first place the entire staff is paid. Not very much, to be sure, but everybody is supposed to do expert work and nobody is asked to do it for nothing. There are seventeen officers and teachers in the school. Nine of them are professional instructors in regular schools. The others are students and alumni of Union Theological Seminary.

The idea that anybody is fit to take a class in Sunday school has no place here. Neither has the theory that teaching such a class consists in hearing the Golden Text, in propounding the printed questions on the "lesson leaf" and in perfunctory pleas to indifferent boys and girls to try and do better next time.

When the children reach the seminary building they go up to a corridor on the second floor where coat racks are provided and where a matron is in attendance. She helps the little folks with their wraps and remains there on duty until the last child has put on his or her hat and coat and goes home. The kindergarten class goes from this corridor directly to its own room. The other children form in procession at 9:25 and march through the halls to the chapel, singing a procession hymn as they enter.

There is a twenty minute service here, consisting simply of hymns, prayer and Scripture reading. Then the recessional is sung as the school marches out and the classes disperse to their own rooms. There is no re-assembling at the end of the forty-five minute period which follows, and which is spent entirely in class work. The opening service is purely religious and is the only time when the school meets together as a whole. This, of course, is the method in ordinary day schools.

The course of instruction is arranged at present to cover thirteen years or more, depending on the length of time spent in the kindergarten—although only one year is now allowed for that as for each of the succeeding grades. The child is supposed to enter school at the age of five. After kindergarten come the eight grades corresponding to those in the public schools. Then follow the usual four high school years.

At present there are classes in the kindergarten, in each of the eight grades and in the first year of the high school. As the upper classes are fed from the lower ones, and the school has not been in existence very long, the last three years of high school are still missing; but each ensuing year will supply one until the number is complete. The school was originally held at Teachers College. But when the theological seminary moved up to that neighborhood in 1910 the Sunday school was taken under the wing of its department of religious instruction.

The number of pupils received is limited. There are now eighty boys and eighty-eight girls enrolled. All except the upper grades are full and there is a waiting list of about forty. The children come from families living in that locality, which not happen to be very well supplied with churches. Twelve denominations are represented by the parents of the pupils, and several by the teachers in the school. The course of instruction is entirely unsectarian and permits considerable freedom of interpretation of the individual teachers, the chief requirement being that when they attempt any such interpretation they shall explain that they are giving merely their own personal opinions.

In the class rooms the chairs and tables are graded in height and the rooms have blackboards as well as, when needed, wall maps, relief maps, sand table and stereoscopic materials. The children in the elementary grades pay a fee of a dollar a year simply to cover the cost of the materials they use.

Each class has its own officers, president, secretary and treasurer; the last named takes up the collection and has charge of the funds. These collections do not go to the schools which is supported by voluntary contributions. The expenses for this year, by the way, are calculated at something over \$2000, which will cover salaries, printing and stationery, social affairs and incidental expenses.

The collections are used by the classes individually just as they please. Different objects are considered by a

class as a whole, the discussion being perfectly free and often extremely animated. When the matter has been well talked over the class votes on it and that decision stands. Generally the money is devoted to charitable work. Gifts have been made by several classes to day nurseries; two classes decided to help famine sufferers in Japan; a class of boys sent some of its money to the Grenfell Association; toys and dolls have been sent to poor children; also clothing and delicacies for the sick; picture books have been

TREE SURGEON'S SCIENTIFIC WORK

The traveling tree surgeon, as this deft operator on crippled and diseased trees is aptly called, is becoming an institution in this country. In New England the important work of doctoring decaying and decrepit trees and giving them years of further life and usefulness has been going on for several years, but it is not confined to the traveling expert, who is a recent comer into the general field. Many towns and cities in New England support a tree surgeon as an official and appropriate money annually to meet the cost of his skill in treating old and failing trees.

Tree surgery is but an advanced development of arboriculture. Both fruit and shade trees are valued now as never before, and it is fast becoming generally known that by skillful methods of tree surgery it is possible to give new lease of life to trees which apparently have reached their limit of existence. The process of treating trees that need the surgeon's aid include several branches, among them the filling of cavities with cement, trimming, chaining, packing, scraping, spraying and fertilizing.

The traveling tree surgeon is usually a graduate of some forestry school, and begins his work by canvassing a town and interesting individual tree owners and municipal authorities in the importance of preserving their shade and other trees. Familiarity and long association with the trees have blunted appreciation of the fact that they are getting old, and many years are necessary to grow new ones. Rarely does the tree surgeon fail to convince his hearers that the old trees may be made to live for at least a part of the time the new ones are coming on to take their places. This specialist usually charges \$5 a day for his services, or he will contract to do the work required at so much a tree. And object "lesson in the beneficent transformation the tree surgeon has effected in trees which he has treated is offered in the village of Goshen, N. Y., which community is 200 years old. On many of its magnificent elms and maples, old as the village itself, age and neglect had set the seal of approaching death. Now they show new and astonishing vigor and promise of many years of life, and yet the tree surgeon's treatment began only three years ago.

The process of renewing the usefulness of a tree is most interesting. After a mass of decay has been removed from the interior of a rotting trunk there remains a shell of living sapwood and bark. Into this cavity a steel brace is inserted and bolted in place. This supplies that stability to the stem which was impaired by the decay of the supporting heartwood. Then what are known as the water-sheds are cut, to prevent moisture remaining in contact with the wood. These consist of deep grooves cut about an inch inside of the edges of the cavity and down to the ground. Then the cavity is filled in with cement, reinforced by wiring stretched from nails in the wood. The cement being pressed tightly into the water-sheds forms channels down which the water flows to be led out at the base of the tree.

The cement is built into the original outlines of the tree. The bark, which has been cut back for an inch or so to prevent its being bruised while the work is in progress, eventually covers the filled in wound, thus giving to the tree its normal appearance.

In the case of exceptionally large cavities the opening is covered by strips of zinc. Cement is forced down into every crevice and allowed to set, after which the zinc is removed and a coat of fine finishing cement put on and painted the color of the tree's bark. By this method the tree surgeon is enabled to build out trees where sometimes half of the wood may have been destroyed by lightning or from some other cause. It is remarkable how quickly such wounds will heal when thus protected from further decay.

Besides the benefit gained from the traveling tree surgeon's work his advent has been of great importance in arousing a feeling of civic pride in rural communities where the care of and attention to their trees have never been given a thought. In places where unscientific efforts to improve the ap-

pearance of the trees have been made the mistakes are corrected and the manner of avoiding such evils in the future pointed out.—N. Y. Sun.

THE SENTIMENT OF THE SEA.

It was a good breeze of wind. We picked up other proof of it next day. Bill Johnson had shipped sail to his "Fannie" and gone to the eastward, and the skipper had decided to run for Newport, and so we were on our way. The middle of the morning it was, a fine day, and as we were still hoping for fish, the lookouts were aloft. Ezra called out something and pointed, and we all looked. It was part of a drifting mast, the lower part broken off raggedly from a foot or two above the saddle to the step.

And then we saw a dory bottom up. "A yellow dory," somebody said. "A yellow dory," somebody else said, "and 'twas a white-painted saddle to that mast a while ago." Everybody repeated that, and then suddenly nobody seemed to be saying any more about it.

The skipper also put off to get the dory. It was some little trouble to right the capsized dory from our dory gunwale, but we did it after a while. A part of a sword had been driven through her bottom, which happens often and meant nothing; but there was the name on her bow—"Nokomis." We took the dory aboard our vessel and went on.

A dory, too, could be washed off the deck of a fishing-vessel, so that didn't prove anything; but the lower end of the mast, and the oil-barrel with the hole in the head—altogether it didn't look good. And then we picked up part of a booby-hatch and, close by, two hatch-covers. And then Bill identified them as from off the "Nokomis."

"She's broke up. Good-by. 'Nokomis,'" said our skipper, and Big Bill went on to tell about John Pettipaw. "Easy-goin', nothin' worrit him. The finest kind of a chap," said Bill. "Mebbe he didn't worry enough."

And then we picked up the watermelon. Everybody knew that Pettipaw's cook, Bill said, was a great fellow to ship a few watermelons, and always kept a couple to eat on the passage home. And men don't throw watermelons overboard. This one must have floated out of her hold, which meant she had broken up; the mast, the booby-hatch, the hatch covers, and now the watermelon. It was John who spied the melon from aloft, but we would have missed it only for Ezra. He made a flying leap into the dory towing astern, and, leaning far out to lay the dory on her side, he spread wide his hands, and the melon just naturally floated right over the gunwale and into his arms, and Ezra hugged it to his bosom.

Bill took the melon when it was passed up over the rail and tested it for soundness. "Only one little soft spot," he announced, and without any foolish delay got his dressing-knife and cut it up. "Poor old 'Nokomis,' I wonder where ye be now," observed Bill, and cautiously tasted the melon. "Not a touch o' salt," he declared, and cut into it more deeply. "Poor old 'Nokomis,' I'm sorry for yer," and handed himself a fat slice. Three melancholy bites of that and he threw the rind over the side; and he had another slice, and studied that rind, too, as it slowly sank under our quarter. Well, his old shipmates were gone, that was sure. With his tongue he worked the juicy shreds from the far corners of his mouth. He was staring outboard. Why be downcast? He faced inboard, and cast side-look at the watermelon. He contemplated what was left of that, by now a hollow shell. At last he spoke: "Poor 'Nokomis!' But a damn good-tastin' melon, warn't she?"—James B. Connolly, in Harper's Magazine for March.

FIRST SUBWAY IN ITALY.

From Consular and Trade Reports.

The first city subway in Italy is to be constructed at Naples. The concession has just been granted by the Ministry of Public Works to a French Italian company. The estimated cost is \$5,700,000, to be met entirely by the concessionary company and without subsidy or grant of any kind. The capital is largely French. A heavy bond has been given by the stipulations of the concession. The line will be both urban and interurban, the former with a urban length of eight kilometers (4.97 miles) and the latter ten kilometers (6.21 miles) and is to be completed in four years. Similar projects are under consideration both at Genoa and Rome, but thus far the Naples subway is the first in Italy upon which definite action has been finally taken and its construction has therefore awakened general interest throughout Italy.

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